



OLD TESTAMENT: JACOB

Lesson 9

BIG IDEA

Esau and Jacob are born rivals, as God predicted. Jacob tricks Esau out of his birth right and blessing. He flees for his life and has an important encounter with God.

MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 8 and/or Genesis 28:15

KEY VERSES

Genesis 25:19 - 33

• PREPARATION & MATERIALS •

BIBLE SKIT

- Bible
- Large nametags suspended by yarn for: Jacob, Esau, Isaac, Rebekah, Leah, Rachel
- Fuzzy fabric or blanket for Jacob to trick his father with
- *Experience Mission* baseball cap and bear ears.

GAME

- bean bags

CRAFT - PINCH POT

- Air dry or plasticine clay, approximately a golf ball size piece per child
- Paper plates (one per child)

WORKSHEETS

- Photocopies of Coloring Sheet (1 per child)



Psalm 8

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!



(extend hands to sides)

You have set your glory in the heavens.



(extend hands high)

Through the praise of children and infants you have



("stop" hand)

established a stronghold against your enemies,

To silence the foe and the avenger.



(index finger over lips)

(wiggle fingers both hands)

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,



The moon and the stars which you have set in place,



(point to moon and stars)

What is mankind that you are mindful of them,



(shrug shoulders)

Human beings that you care for them?

You have made them a little lower than the angels



(flat hand at waist)

And crowned them with glory and honor.



(make crown with hands)

You have made them rulers over the works of your

hands;



(open hands)

You put everything under their feet:



(stomp feet)

All flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild,



(hands like claws)

The birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim

the paths of the seas.



(hands together wiggle like fish)

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!



(arms up as if cheering)



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BIBLE LESSON • SKIT

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TIP

This story is acted out by adult (TL and Bear) and kid volunteers. Adult staff should be nearby to help direct the kids. It may proceed slowly, but the kids should enjoy the opportunity to act. Actors should wear nametags stating which character they are playing.

SCRIPT

Bear and TL enter stage and greet each other

Bear Greetings TL.

TL Greetings to you, Bear, my fuzzy ol' friend. I have such a fun idea for today's story.

Bear Really?

TL Oh, yes. Today's story is about a man named Jacob. It's action packed and very dramatic.

Bear Cool.

TL I think we should act out the story with the kids!

Bear Oh, goody, goody, goody! Can I play a character? Can I? Please?

TL Bear, I have the perfect part for you. You have lots of nice fur, so you can be the hairy guy called Esau. (Turn to the kids) I need some other volunteers, too. Would any of you kids be interested in acting out the story? You don't need to remember any lines, or say anything. All you have to do is listen to the story and act out what the character does. Who wants to help me?

Kids (Hopefully answer with excitement. If not, ask the staff and volunteers to take part)

TL Great. OK. Here are some of the characters we need (explain as follows and pick kids to fill the rolls). Jacob, a trickster. Isaac a blind old man. Rebekah a mother. Leah, Jacob's first wife. Rachel, Jacob's second wife. Laban, Jacob's uncle. A servant of Jacob.

(Assemble actors to the side of the stage. Place nametags around their necks so their character is obvious.)

TL (Quiet the actors and audience, begin the skit). Isaac and Rebekah, who we learned about last time, had twin boys. The first born was reddish and hairy, they named him Esau. The second one was born holding tightly to Esau's heel, they named him Jacob. God had told Rebekah that her babies would be two nations that would rival each



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other. And the younger would serve the older.

Now Isaac's favorite son was Esau. He was a hunter and Isaac loved the meat he brought home. Rebekah's favorite son was Jacob.

One day, Esau came in from hunting just as Jacob was cooking some stew. Esau was very hungry and asked his brother for some stew. Jacob was tricky and said, "OK, I'll give it to you IF you give me your rights as first born son." Jacob knew that the first born son would get twice as much of the family wealth and would become head of the family. Esau said, "Well, I am about to starve to death, so what good will my rights be." So he promised to give Jacob his rights as first born son. All he cared about was the stew and he didn't realize how foolish his choice was until later.

Isaac was now old and blind. When it was time to give his final blessing to his first born son, he sent Esau out to hunt some for some meat and prepare some good food. He was going to give his blessing to Esau after the meal.

But, Rebekah was listening to the plan and went off to tell Jacob. She loved Jacob more and wanted him to have the blessing, so she came up with a trick. She cooked up goat meat the way her husband Isaac liked it and then she covered Jacob's skin with animal fur and dressed him in some of Esau's clothes. (Cover Jacob with furry fabric or blanket).

When Jacob brought the meat to his father, Isaac was suspicious at first because the voice was not like Esau's. But when he touched the hairy skin and smelled Esau's clothes, he was convinced. So he ate the food and blessed Jacob, thinking he was Esau. He prayed that God would make him wealthy and a powerful ruler over his brother and his relatives.

After Jacob left, Esau returned. Isaac realized he had been tricked and he began to tremble and shake. Esau cried bitterly and loudly and begged Isaac to bless him, too. But Isaac said, "Your brother has deceived me and taken away your blessing. There is nothing I can do."

After that, Esau hated Jacob. "This is the second time Jacob has cheated me. He took away my rights as first born son and now my blessing!" Esau decided to kill Jacob. But, Rebekah found out about Esau's plan so she sent Jacob to her brother, Laban's home. She hoped he would find a wife and that Esau would get over his anger.

So, Jacob set off on a journey to his Uncle Laban's house. One night, as he was sleeping with a rock as a pillow, he had an amazing dream. He saw a stairway reaching from earth to heaven with angels going up and down and the Lord standing before him. In the dream the Lord promised Jacob many children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. And he promised to keep Jacob safe. When Jacob woke he



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said, “This place must be the house of God; it must be the gate that opens into heaven.” He made a promise to God, “If you will be with me and protect me on this journey, then you will be my God.” He set up a large memorial stone in that spot to remember God’s promise.

Jacob continued on his trip until he came to a well with sheep and shepherds near by. While he was there his Uncle Laban’s daughter, Rachel, arrived at the well with the family flock of sheep. Jacob helped her by moving the stone away from the well so she could water the flock. When she found out they were cousins was super excited and ran home to tell her father. Jacob was welcomed into their home and stayed there for a long time.

TL Well kids, this is only the middle of the story, but it is all we will do for today. We’ll continue the story tomorrow. (Thank volunteers and have them sit down.)

Bear Uh, TL?

TL Yes, Esau? Er, I mean, Bear...

Bear Jacob’s not very nice. Neither is Esau. And...well...neither is Rebekah. Why is this story in the bible?

TL Bear, that is a very good question. It’s some of the stories in the bible are sad and hard to hear. But there is a very, very good reason to know about Jacob and Esau. Do you remember how God made a promise to Abraham that he would be the father of many nations?

Bear Yah. Like more people than the stars in the sky. Right?

TL Exactly. Isaac, Jacob and Esau were each a fulfillment of that promise. They are all part of the growing nation that God promised.

Bear (Scratch head) So...does that mean that God was happy with Jacob and Rebekah’s trick?

TL No. God is never happy with sin. I’m sure it made him very sad. However, God’s promises don’t change. Jacob and Rebekah’s trickery could not change God’s big plan.

Bear Yah, that makes a lot of sense actually. God is very big, isn’t he?

TL He is indeed.

(Exit stage)



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What did God tell Rebekah about her babies?
- Who was born first?
- What is a birth right?
- How did Jacob trick his brother? Was it OK?
- How was Esau foolish? Was it OK?
- What did Esau want to do to Jacob? How did Jacob respond?
- What was Jacob's dream? How did he respond to the dream?
- Who did Jacob meet at the well?
- What do you think about this story? Have you ever tricked someone and hurt them (physically or emotionally)?

• CRAFT •

OBJECTIVE: TEXT

Kids will make a bowl out of clay similar to what Jacob and Esau may have used.

MATERIALS PROVIDED BY EM

- Scissors, staplers, rulers, hole punches

DIRECTIONS FOR PINCH POT

Shape a lump of clay into a smooth ball. Gently push thumb into the circle and gently squeeze clay between thumb and fingers. Slowly rotate bowl thinning out the sides as you go.



MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- Clay (air dry or plasticine), approximately a golf ball size per child.
- Paper plates (one per child)

DIRECTIONS FOR COIL POT

Divide the clay into one small piece and one large piece (large marble size and golf ball size). Press the small piece into a disk about ¼ inch thick. Work the larger piece into a long rope. Press one end of the snake onto the disk and then carefully wrap the rope along the edge of the disk building up at each pass.





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GAME

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• GAME •

OBJECTIVE:

The object of Steal the Bean Bag (aka Steal the Bacon) is take the bean bag back to your own side without being caught.

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- bean bag

DIRECTIONS

In this game, two teams are chosen, and one umpire is selected. One object is required to be the bacon. (A glove is a common choice)

The members of each team are numbered. They form two opposing lines along a rope boundary and place the bean bag in the exact center between them.

The umpire then calls out a number. The players on each side who are assigned that number are the players for that round. No other team members leave their side of the field.

Neither player may touch the other until someone touches the bean bag. Once a player touches the bean bag however, the other player may tag him/her.

If a player is able to grab the bean bag and carry it back over to his/her own side, that team scores a point.

If a player is tagged after touching the bean bag and before he/she returns their own side, the team that tagged him/her scores a point.

Note that the sequence of play usually involves the two kids running out and hovering over the bean bag, waiting for a slight advantage to grab it and run back before the other player can react.

The game is over when a predetermined number of points are scored, or when all numbers have been called.

VARIATION: The umpire can call more than one number, in which case several players from each side participate. In some games, players may tag any player on the opposing team, in others, a player may only tag the player on the other team that they share a number with.



